

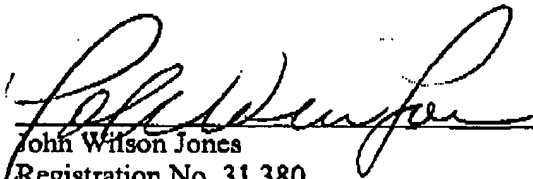
Applicants elect Group I with traverse. The basis of the restriction is set forth in the Examiner's statement that "the product can be used as a drilling fluid or as a gravel packing fluid."

The essence of the invention is a novel scale inhibitor which may be used downhole. Claims 1-25 and 27-35 are broadly drawn to the method for inhibiting scale formation downhole by use of a copolymer containing composition. The claim does not recite the actual treatment application; only that the copolymer containing composition is used to inhibit scale formation. The novelty in composition Claims 26 and 36-44 is the presence of the same copolymer. (Note that independent Claim 36 is broadly drawn to "a fluid for use in an oil or gas well.")

Thus, a single inventive concept runs through the claims of both Groups, i.e., a copolymer for use as a scale inhibitor. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

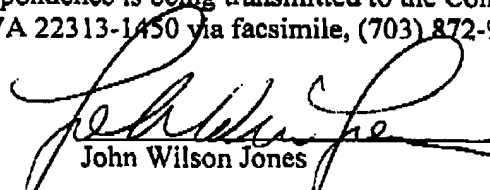
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, (703) 872-9306 on this 27th day of July 2005.


John Wilson Jones